



#### IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

a variable display meansdevice configured to variably display a plurality of symbol rows each having a symbol placement face formed in a curved surface on which a plurality of symbols are placed;

an image display meansdevice being provided in front of and opposed to the variable display meansdevice and configured to display the symbols through a flat symbol transmission face and to display an image concerning a game;

a symbol illumination meansdevice configured to illuminate the symbols; and

an image display assistance meansdevice being provided ~~on a side of lateral~~ to an area between the variable display meansdevice and the image display device to cover an area sandwiched between the symbol placement face and the symbol transmission face on a face on the side of the variable display meansdevice, and configured to assist image display of the image display meansdevice.

2. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

a variable display meansdevice configured to variably display a plurality of symbol rows on which a plurality of symbols are placed;

an image display meansdevice being provided in front of the variable display meansdevice and configured to display an image concerning a game;

a symbol illumination meansdevice configured to illuminate the symbols; and

an image display assistance meansdevice being provided ~~on a side of lateral~~ to an area between the variable display meansdevice and the image display device and configured to reflect light emitted from the symbol illumination meansdevice and to assist image display of the image display meansdevice.

3. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the symbol illumination meansdevice comprises a rear illumination lamp configured to illuminate the symbols from behind the symbols, and

wherein the image display assistance ~~means~~device reflects light emitted from the rear illumination lamp.

4. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the symbol illumination ~~means~~device comprises a front illumination lamp configured to illuminate the symbols from a slanting direction of the front of the symbols, and wherein the image display assistance ~~means~~device reflects light emitted from the front illumination lamp.

5. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image display assistance ~~means~~device is attached to a housing that houses the variable display ~~means~~device.

6. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image display assistance ~~means~~device comprises a white plate.

7. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image display assistance ~~means~~device comprises a mirror plate.

8. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:  
a variable display ~~means~~device configured to variably display a plurality of symbol rows on which a plurality of symbols are placed;  
an image display ~~means~~device being provided in front of the variable display ~~means~~device and configured to display an image concerning a game; and  
a side illumination ~~means~~device being provided ~~on a side of~~ lateral to an area between the variable display ~~means~~device and the image display device and configured to illuminate the symbols from a side of the symbols.

9. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 8, further comprising a case that houses at least a part of the variable display device,

wherein the side illumination device includes a plate attached to the case and a lighting device provided on the plate.

10. (New) A gaming machine comprising:  
a first display device configured to variably display a plurality of symbols;

a second display device including a display panel that is provided opposed to and spaced from the first display device, and the second display device configured to display the symbols through the display panel and to display an image concerning a game on the display panel; and

a display assistance device provided lateral to an area between the first display device and the display panel of the second display device and configured to assist image display of the second display device.

11. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 10, further comprising an illumination device configured to illuminate the symbols,

wherein the display assistance device includes a reflector that reflects light emitted from the illumination device.

12. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 10, wherein the display assistance device includes an illumination device that illuminates the area between the first display device and the display panel of the second display device.